

American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act, Required Learning Loss Set Aside

Guidance and Support Document



Overview of Learning Loss Funding

On Thursday, March 11, 2021, the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act was signed into law. It was an unprecedented \$1.9 trillion package of assistance measures, including \$122 billion for the ARP Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund. Funds are provided to states and districts to help safely reopen and sustain the same operation of schools and address the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on the Nation's students.

Alaska was awarded **\$358,770,937** in ARP ESSER funds. Of that amount, **\$322,893,843** was required to be awarded to school districts. One requirement for ARP ESSER funds is that school districts spend at least 20% of their allocation to address the impacts of lost instructional time during the pandemic. The amount required for all Alaskan school districts to spend on addressing learning loss is **\$64,578,768.60**

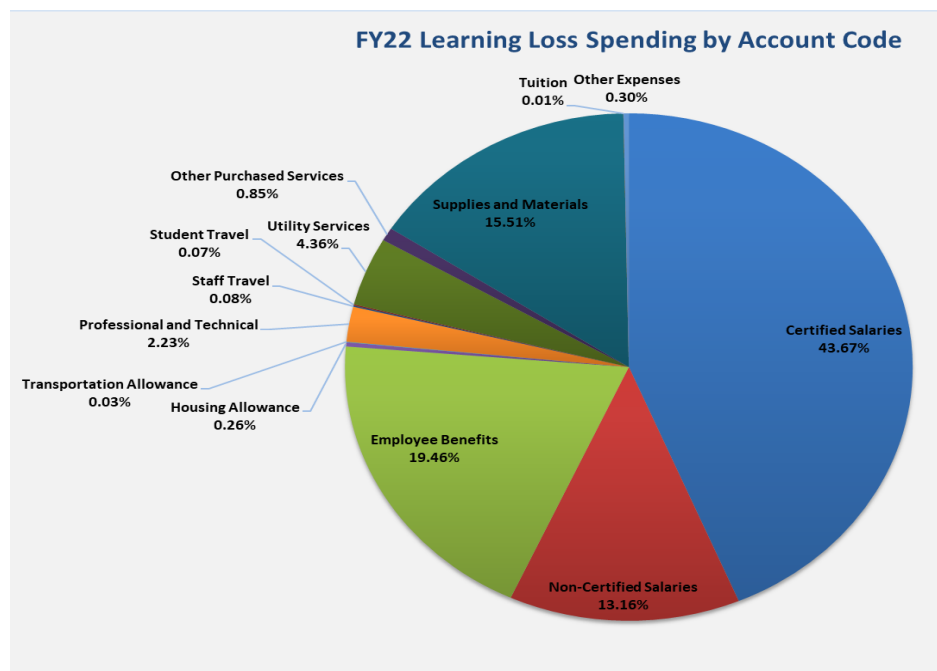
The federal definition of learning loss is:

Section 2001(e)(1) of the ARP Act requires an LEA to reserve not less than 20 percent of its ARP ESSER allocation to address the academic impact of lost instructional time through the implementation of evidence-based interventions (e.g., providing intensive or high-dosage tutoring or accelerating learning), such as summer learning or summer enrichment, extended day, comprehensive after-school programs, or extended school year programs, and ensure that the interventions implemented respond to students' social, emotional, mental health, and academic needs and address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on students from low-

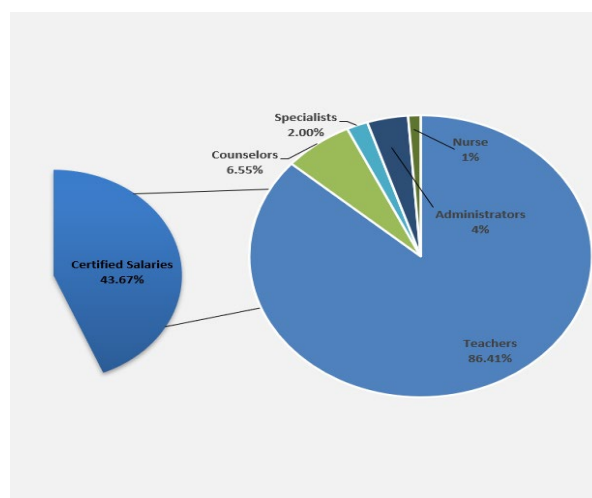
income families, students of color, children with disabilities, English learners, migratory students, students experiencing homelessness, and children and youth in foster care.

In Fiscal Year 2022 (July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022), districts spent **\$60,709,503.62** in ESSER III funds, and of that, **\$31,020,733.82** was spent on addressing learning loss. Districts still have **52%** of their learning loss funds remaining, to spend by **September 30, 2024**.

Districts spent **76%** of their learning loss funding on salaries and benefits. **15%** of the funds were spent on supplies and the remainder of the learning loss funds were spent on other items.



Districts spent **44%** of their learning loss funding on certificated salaries, and of that **86%** was spent on teacher salaries.



Ideas and Resources

For districts still looking for innovative and sustainable ways to spend their learning loss funds, DEED has compiled a list of ideas and resources.

Examples of Learning Loss Activities Funded by School Districts in Alaska

Curriculum & Materials

- Purchasing high-quality instructional materials (digital licenses, e-books, textbooks)
- Developing culturally relevant curriculum
- Purchasing science kits, STEM kits, and robotics equipment
- Providing technology upgrades
- Purchasing additional reading materials and literacy kits
- Providing literacy kits to pre-K students in the community

Academic Support

- Offering additional tutoring from AmeriCorps
- Supporting dual credit opportunities for students
- Offering alternative school programming
- Providing hands-on and place-based educational experiences

Mental Health

- Counseling services (hiring staff, contracting with local agencies, contracting with telehealth companies)
- Contracting with social workers
- Purchasing SEL curriculum to support mental health

Examples of Learning Loss Activities Funded in Other States

- Teacher supports (professional development on instructional strategies like science of reading, teaching academies, communities of practice, mentorship opportunities)
- Teacher recruitment/grow your own (paid student teaching, teacher residencies)
- Postsecondary and career readiness (work-based learning, dual enrollment, certifications, CTE)
- Data (interim assessments, data tools, PD, data system modernization)
- Virtual tutoring (Princeton Review, Paper, tutor.com)
- Neer-peer tutoring opportunities (high school students tutoring elementary students/college students tutoring high school students)

Learning Loss Ideas From DEED Staff

Mental Health

- Address the trauma from COVID
- Capture Kids Hearts
- Flippen Leadership Training and support for staff
- Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports
- Mental Health Scan (available through the state)
- Mental Health Trust (reach out to local professionals)
- Contract with local community providers

For more information please reach out to Sharon Fishel at Sharon.Fishel@alaska.gov

Career and Technical Education

- Purchase simulators (heavy equipment, CDL, driver's ed, drone piloting)
- Offer CTE skill camps
- Provide coding opportunities

For more information please reach out to Brad Billings at Brad.Billings@alaska.gov

Academic Support Team

- Heggerty Phonemic Awareness
- UFLI Foundations
- Amplify State literacy screener (has digital learning component too)
- Phonics for Reading: Science of Reading
- CORE Reading Source Book (K-12)
- CORE Multiple Measures: K-8 Assessment
- Provide STEM summer school/Code.org

For more information please reach out to Jenn Miller at Jenn.Miller@alaska.gov

If you'd like to share how learning loss funding has impacted your school or district, please email us at DEED.CARES@alaska.gov.